

BIOGRAPHY ON JAMES L. CARDOSO

Lieutenant Colonel Cardoso was born 18 December 1965 and is a native of Cherry Hill, NJ. He was commissioned a second lieutenant as a 1988 graduate of the USAF Academy, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Lieutenant Colonel Cardoso completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB, OK in August 1989, and was selected to remain at the 25th Flying Training Squadron as a T-38 instructor pilot. He was promoted to Captain in June 1992, and completed Squadron Officer School in residence in October 1992. In August 1994, after being selected to transition to the MH-53J Pave Low, he completed Rotary Wing Qualification at Ft Rucker, AL in November 1994, and MH-53J Pilot Mission Qualification at Kirtland AFB, NM in November 1995.

In January 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Cardoso was assigned to the 31st Special Operations Squadron, Osan AB, Korea. While there, he held positions as Chief of Training and Executive Officer. In January 1997, he moved to the 20th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL. While there he held the positions of Plans officer, Chief of Training, Flight Commander, and Chief of Standardization/Evaluation. He upgraded to Instructor Pilot in February 1998 and to Evaluator Pilot in January 1999, and in October 1998 he attended the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course at MCAS Yuma, AZ. In March 1999 he organized and deployed his flight in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE, and on 27 March 1999 led the rescue of an F-117 pilot shot down over Serbia for which he was awarded the Silver Star and the Colonel James Jabara Award. He was promoted to Major in October 1999, and was appointed Chief, Rotary Wing Division, at Headquarters AFSOC Standardization/Evaluation, in March 2000.

In June 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Cardoso was assigned to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, CA, as a Spanish student, graduating in December 2000. From January 2001 to December 2001, he attended the Command and General Staff Officer's Course at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, GA.

After Fort Benning, Lieutenant Colonel Cardoso was selected as the Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, from January 2002 until December 2003, during which time he was promoted to his present rank. From December 2003 until December 2004 he served as Operations Officer for the 551st Special Operations Squadron at Kirtland AFB, NM.

Lieutenant Colonel Cardoso has a Masters degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and is a command pilot with over 3,300 hours in the MV-22, MH-53M, MH-53J, T-38, T-37, and UH-1. His decorations include the Silver Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

Lieutenant Colonel Cardoso is married to the former Lori McClain of Port St Joe, FL. They have three children, McClain, Alexis, and Dusty.